

FC2 (SW) [REDACTED] was interviewed by LCDR Tracy Riker, JAGC, USN, on 16 November 2000 at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FC2 [REDACTED] voluntary statement is provided below.

FC2 [REDACTED] was standing watch as the AFT Top-Side Rover at the time of the explosion.

1. Were you briefed on the threat situation in Aden?  
No.

What was your understanding of the threat?

I understood that it was a friendly port, however, we were to be on alert anyway. I knew to be on alert from attending the daily departmental OPS-INTEL briefs.

2. Were you briefed on the security/force protection plan for Aden?  
No.

3. Were the rules of engagement for small boat threats ever discussed with you?

Yes. No boats were to pull alongside and/or tie up without authorization from the OOD. I did attend a ROE brief prior to deployment and had training while on deployment and in port. I do not remember when I had that training.

What was your understanding of the rules?

See above answer.

4. What was your understanding of how you were to keep unauthorized boats away from the ship?

First a verbal warning. Second a warning shot and finally deadly force. Only after authorization to lock and load from superiors. I also know we could repel with fire hoses but we did not have any fire hoses laid out on the day of the explosion.

Was this discussed with you prior to your assuming the watch?

No.

5. Did anyone tell you what boats were authorized to be along side?

Ships collecting trash were authorized to come alongside.

6. How many boats do you remember coming along side? What order, and what were they doing?

I vaguely remember about 3; all for trash collection.

7. Were you told to report any suspected threats to the ship or crew to a particular person in your chain of command?

Yes, I was told by my section leader to report suspected threats to the OOD.

8. If you saw a suspicious vessel near your ship, what were you trained to do?

Inform the OOD via radio and ensure the boat did not come alongside.

9. Did you have any specific training on when it is appropriate to use deadly force when faced with a threat to your ship and/or crew?

Yes. When an imminent threat to life and or damage of U.S. Navy property exists due to hostile force or intent. I received this basic security force training while inport on duty.

Under what circumstances do you believe you could use deadly force?

See above answer.

I do not remember when I last had firearms training.

USN

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